

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ARA-06 DHA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OC-06 CCO-00
TRSE-00 /100 W

-----131720Z 031975 /47

P R 131615Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 699

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL DOUALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINS, ACOM, MASS , CM, UR, CT, EK, SHUM, NI

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 0051 (NOTAL) (B) YAOUNDE 0023 (NOTAL)
(C) STATE 310518 (D) STATE 305437 (NOTAL) (E) STATE
(NOTAL) (F) STATE 313181 (NOTAL) (G) STATE 307467 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. I INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT'S
ASSESSMENT SOVIET AND CUBAN DESIGNS IN CENTRAL AFRICA (REF C)
AND, WITH USUAL CAVEATS, ABOUT OUR POSSIBLE SUPPORT GURC
REQUESTS TRANSCAM AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE. HE INFORMED ME
ON HIS TRIP TO NIGERIA AND ABSENCE OF NEWS ON WATTS.

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2. JANUARY 12 FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA RECEIVED ME, ACCOMPANIED
BY DCM, FOR BRIEFING ALONG LINES I HAD GIVEN PRESIDENT
AHIDJO AND SECRETARY GENERAL EBOUA (REFTELS A AND B).
ON ASSESSMENT, KEUTCHA VERY APPRECIATIVE DEPARTMENT'S
POSITION BUT, BEING ONGROUND IN CENTRAL AFRICA, HE WAS
SKEPTICAL OF LOW PRIORITY SOVIETS AND CUBANS PLACE ON THIS
REGION. HE, LIKE OTHERS, PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT ERRATIC

NATURE MACIE REGIME. CAMEROON EXPERIENCING GREAT DIFFICULTIES DEALING WITH MACIE, AND FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED FRANKLY WHETHER OR NOT WE THOUGHT GURC SHOULD CONTINUE HAVE RESIDENT ENVOYS OR FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE AND PULL OUT. WHILE NOT PRESUMING TO ADVISE FOREIGN MINISTER GURC RELATIONS, WE POINTED OUT US HAD NO CITIZENS OR INTERESTS TO PROTECT, WHILE GURC HAD CONSIDERABLE NUMBER CITIZENS AND INTERESTS AND E.G. AFTER ALL A NEIGHBOR. HE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT CUBAN PRESENCE AND REQUESTED HE BE KEPT INFORMED IF THERE ANY UPGRADING CUBAN AND/OR RUSSIAN PRESENCE E.G.

3. HE ASKED ABOUT WHETHER MACIE ENJOYS SUPPORT PEOPLE EQUATORIAL GUINEA. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT HE PROBABLY ENJOYED SUPPORT MONGONO FANG AND OTHERS PROFITING FROM HIS RULE, BUT THAT THERE INDICATIONS LATEST DISMISSALS AT LEAST IN PART DUE RIVALRY BETWEEN DIFFERENT FANG FACTIONS. ALSO, HISTORICALLY BUBI HAD SUFFERED AND NOT SUPPORTED HIS REGIME. KEUTCHAS WONDERED, PERHAPS MORE IN HOPE THAN IN SERIOUSNESS, ABOUT MACIE BEING REPLACED, AND IT WAS NOTED THAT MACIE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL ELIMINATING DOMESTIC OPPOSITION. COMMENTS WERE MADE ON LARGE NUMBER REFUGEE GROUPS. THEY MOST ACTIVE LIBREVILLE, GENEVA, AND MADRID, SOLICITING SUPPORT OVERTHROW MACIE. USG POLICY IS NOT TO SUPPORT REFUGEE GROUPS' POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, US WORKS THROUGH RECOGNIZED RELIEF AGENCIES ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. REPRESENTATIVES OF REFUGEE GROUPS HAD WRITTEN TO SENATORS CLARK AND KENNEDY ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN E.G. THERE HAD BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT THIS BE BROUGHT UP IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. I SAID THAT USG WOULD SUPPORT OTHERS RAISING ISSUE, BUT NOT LIKELY TO INITIATE ACTION.
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4. WHEN I INFORMED KEUTCHA, WITH USUAL CAVEATS, ABOUT OUR POSSIBLE SUPPORT TRANSCAM III AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN MINISTER MOST APPRECIATEVE. HE SAID OUR RESPONSE THEIR REQUESTS INDICATED USG TRULY FRIEND OF CAMEROON AND JUSTIFIED BASICALLY PRO-WESTERN GURC ORIENTATION. HE HOPED CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONTINUE UNDER PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER. WE DISCUSSED SOME OF RECENTLY ANNOUNCED HIGH LEVEL APPOINTMENTS IN STATE AND HE ESPECIALLY GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY MANAGEMENT-DESIGNATE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN CAMEROON.

5. ON NIGERIA, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STATE OBASNAJO. HE FOUND HIM VERY INTELLIGENT, PERCEPTIVE AND FORTHRIGHT. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A MINOR BORDER INCIDENT, BUT IT WAS REALLY NOTHING AND HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THERE WOULD BE ANY FURTHER PROBLEMS THIS AREA. WHEN DCM ASKED DIRECT QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE EXCHANGE VISIT CHIEFS OF STATE, KEUTCHA ADMITTED POSSIBILITY AHIDJO MIGHT VISIT NIGERIA DURING

FESTAC, BUT FINAL DECISION NOT YET TAKEN.

6. WHILE KEUTCHA OUT OF ROOM TAKING CALL FROM PARIS, WE HAD OPPORTUNITY SPEAK VINCENT OWONA, CHIEF OF AMERICAN-PACIFIC DIVISION, ABOUT HIS UNGA EXPERIENCES ON FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING 1975 SESSION. HE STATED HE FOUND ATMOSPHERE MUCH MORE CONDUCIVE TO WORK AND LESS ACRIMONIOUS THAN PREVIOUSLY, DUE, IN HIS ESTIMATION, TO NOT HAVING TO DEAL WITH SUCH DIVISIVE ISSUES AS KOREA AND PUERTO RICO.

7. THERE WAS NO NEWS ON WATTS.
SPIRO

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Message Attributes

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